



# Harpswell Historical Society

## Newsletter Winter 2015

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*The Harpswell Historical Society is dedicated to the discovery, identification, collection, preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of materials relating to the history of Harpswell and its people..*

### Deacon Timothy Bailey

*Bette Bailey Behanna*

The last issue of the Newsletter had a short item stating that Bailey's Island was named after Deacon Timothy Bailey, with no more information given. While doing genealogy research for my Bailey family of Basin Point, South Harpswell, at the Maine Historical Society Library in Portland, I found the "Bailey Genealogy" James/John/Thomas and Their Descendants; edited by Hollis R. Bailey, Somerville, MA. The book indicated that James, John and Thomas were all descended from Thomas Bayley, Sr. who arrived in Wessagusset, MA, around 1624. Deacon Timothy Bailey and my ancestor, Jacob Bailey, were both descended from Thomas's oldest son.

*Bailey, continued on p. 2, col. 1*

### From the Editor

The previous editions of our newsletter have been edited by Rob Porter, who brought a new level of quality to our paper. Unfortunately, he has retired, and the job has reverted to me, Burr Taylor. I will do the best I am able to maintain the quality of this newsletter. I would appreciate your feedback, which you can send to [harpshistory@gmail.com](mailto:harpshistory@gmail.com).

I read with great interest this article about Timothy Bailey. It left me curious about Will Black. In researching him, each story I read added a little more information about him and Will Black. The information is sometimes complimentary and sometimes is contradictory. The reader certainly gains a different impressiopn of Will Black and Will Black, Jr as s/he reads the different articles.

There are six versions of the story of Will Black in this newsletter. However several questions remain.

- Was Black Will a pauper or well off?
- Did he have any legal rights to land on Bailey Island?
- Was he just a squatter? Did he have any "Squatter's Rights?" If so, what were they?
- Was his property on Bailey Island purchased, or stolen, or taken by underhanded means, or just taken?
- Was the fact that his "...ownership is acknowledged in the Act of Incorporation of the Town of Harpswell at Harpswell Court in 1758" consistent with his being a squatter?

Some dates may be helpful.

- 1691: Will Black, Jr. born
- 1715: Will, Jr. jailed
- 1727: Will, Jr arrived at Bailey I.
- 1762: Will Jr. bought part Orr's I.



*Early Mackerel Cove with Forest Maid in the background. There were few trees or houses.*

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**Bailey, continued from page 1**

- 1st. John, born 05/13/1640 and his wife, Hannah. He served in King Phillip's War ; d. 06/22/1686
- 2nd Their son, John, b. in Weymouth, Ma m. Sarah White, daughter of Gowan and Elizabeth White, moved to Scituate in 1670. d. 1718
- 3rd Their son, John, b. 11/05/1673, Weymouth, MA, m. Abigail Clapp, daughter of Dea. Samuel Clapp 02/19/1700. He d. 06/1752. They had 11 children. Jacob, b. 12/13/1706, and Timothy, b. 03/20/1709.
- 4th. Timothy Bailey, b. 03/0/1709, Scituate, MA. m. first Sarah Buck. She died 10/09/1740. He m. second, Hannah Curtis of Scituate, June 7, 1742, and "with his wife was recommended to the church in North Yarmouth, ME., whither he moved." He had six children, three by each wife. Olive, died young; Timothy, died young; Sarah, b. 03/13/1739, Delight, b. 7/12/1745 m. Hugh Merryman of Harpswell; Timothy, baptized 10/13, 1751.

Rev. Charles Sinnett researched and wrote several genealogical books about Harpswell families. In his book, *Ancestor Thomas Bayley of Weymouth, MA. And Descendants Who Wrote Their Name Bailey, Maine*

Historical Society Museum Library, Portland, gives a great deal of information re: Deacon Timothy Bailey's purchase of Bailey's Island from Land Proprietors at Freeport, ME. In his book, he states "Uncle" Will Black was living on the Island when Deacon Timothy Bailey arrived there. He was a "squatter" as he owned no part of the Island. Mr. Black moved to Orr's Island and died there. Rev. Sinnett's mother was a grandchild of Deacon Timothy Bailey.

Note: Deacon Timothy Bailey's brother, Jacob, was father of Jacob Bailey, b. 01/17/1729, traveled to No. Yarmouth, perhaps with his uncle, Deacon Timothy Bailey. Jacob purchased a section of Basin Point, South Harpswell, from Henry Gibbs of Boston on Oct. 27, 1755. Deed in Cumberland County Deed Registry, Portland, Me. Vol. I, p. 223-225.

Copies of my notebook, *The Bailey and Green Families of Harpswell, Maine; Ancestors and Descendants for Twelve Generations* have been donated to both the Harpswell Historical Society Museum library and the Orr's Island Public Library. It includes genealogical information re: many families of Harpswell.

Bette Bailey Behanna  
Sarasota, Florida

## **Bailey Island origins: Richard Wescott**

Richard Wescott, *A History of Harpswell, Maine*, (Harpswell: Harpswell Historical Society) pp 38-39.

"The awarding of New Damariscove Island[Haskell] to [a William] Dudley led to a controversy that points up the then existing confusion about the geography of the region. Dudley had made it clear to the committee that the Island he wanted was the Island upon which a black man named Black Will lived. After the committee acted, he discovered that Black Will lived, not on New Damariscove Island [Haskell], but the Island to the eastward of it then known as Cape Newagen [Bailey Island].

"The town acted to satisfy Dudley in September 1735 when it voted that he be given a quit claim deed to "that island whereon Black Will lives provided that Dudley gives a quit claim deed to the proprietors of his right and title to New Damariscove." The following April 1736, Dudley gave the proprietors the quit claim deed they wanted, stating that it was in return for "the Island whereon the said Black Will doth reside commonly called Capenawagan..."

"After the Committee for the Resettlement of North Yarmouth had finished rewarding itself with the larger islands, dozens of smaller islands were still claimed by the town. After some discussion the voters established a new Committee for the Division of Lands to survey, map, and make a judgment of the quality of all those islands to prepare for their division among the town's landholders by a lottery. The drawing for the Islands was held in June 1738, and the results were entered into the town records.



Mackerel Cove, Bailey Island

**Wescott, continued on p. 3**

"The loser in the division of the Islands was Black Will, who may have found his way to the Casco Bay area because his former master, Nicholas Shapleigh of York, had purchased land on Sebascodegan Island before King Philip's War. Shapleigh, who died in 1685, apparently allowed Black Will a good deal of independence and his subsequent masters, Nicholas' widow and her nephew John Shapleigh, continued to wield a light rein over him. Court records show Will accumulated money, worked some land as if it were his own and had an affair with a white woman that produced a baby who became known as Black Will, Jr. In 1699, Will had saved enough money to buy 100 acres of land and the following year John Shapleigh manumitted him. Why he did so is not shown in the court records.

"Black Will, Jr., as the son of a white woman, was a freeman; but he ran afoul of Massachusetts laws that generally discriminated against black people. A 1705 law, for example, barred an interracial marriage for him and the white woman with whom he lived and had children.

"In 1715 Will, Jr. was jailed for having extramarital relations with her, but he and his family stayed together after his release from incarceration. By September 1735, Black Will, Jr. had changed his name to William Black and moved with his wife and son to Cape Newagen Island which soon also became known as Will's Island. Even though William Dudley was given the Island by the Committee for the Resettlement of North Yarmouth, William Black continued to live there as a squatter until Deacon Timothy Bailey bought the Island, and then the Blacks moved across what became known as Will's Gut to Little Sebascodegan Island."

## Bailey Island Origins: George Wheeler

George Augustus Wheeler, M.D., and Henry Warren Wheeler, *History of Brunswick, Topsham, and Harpswell, Maine, Including the Ancient Territory Known As Pejepscot*, Boston, Alfred Mudge & Son, 1878, p. 85.

"Bailey's Island, situated south of the Neck, is the present name of what was called Will's Island in the Act of Incorporation of Harpswell. Captain James Sinnett, now upwards of eighty years of age, who has resided upon the island all his life, gives the following account of the origin of these names.

The first settler upon the island was a man named Black, who, with his wife and a boy, moved there from Kittery. They were of mixed breed, having in their veins the blood of the Anglo-Saxon, Indian, and African races. Black and his wife died and were the first persons ever buried upon the island. Their son, Will Black, lived to old age and became generally known by the name of Uncle Will. The island consequently took its first name from him. Afterwards, Deacon Timothy Bailey, of Hanover, Mass., purchased the island and moved there with his family. The Blacks were squatters and, having no legal claim to the land, they moved to Orr's Island and settled on the lot now owned by Mr. Ralph Johnson. Thereafter, Will's Island was called Bailey's Island. "

## Bailey Island Origins: Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bailey\\_Island\\_\(Maine\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bailey_Island_(Maine))

"Bailey Island originally bore the name Newaggin, given to it by the local Abenaki Native Americans, and was first populated by European settlers in the 17th century.

"The first settler of the island was William Black, son of Black Will who was a freed slave from Kittery, Maine. William sold the land his father had left him in the Upper Parish of Kittery and settled permanently on Bailey's Island. Because of this, the island became known as Will's Island.

"The story goes that in 1742, Reverend Timothy Bailey may have bought Will's Island for one pound of tobacco and a gallon of rum from William Black. In another variation of the story, the minister's wife liked the island and so the Baileys bribed municipal officials to find a flaw in Will's title to the island and award it to them. In any event, after Timothy Bailey and his wife took possession of the island, William Black left to live on Orr's Island. From then on, the island was known as Bailey's Island."

## Another tidbit

Bailey's Island became Bailey Island by act of the United States Post Office. They wanted to shorten the length of the address.



*Running lights from the Forrest Maid of Mackerel Cove  
From the Harpswell Historical Society Museum*

## Bailey Island Origins: The Portland Phoenix August 30 - September 6, 2001

"Will was obviously an industrious man, who, perhaps by doing extra work for his neighbors, was able to raise enough money to buy himself 100 acres of land. Eventually, Shapleigh freed Will for reasons that are not clear.

"In 1708, Will used his land to help free another slave, Anthony Freeman. Freeman was freed by his owner, but the state of Massachusetts required a bond for any freed slave. (This bond was supposed to prevent slaveowners from freeing old slaves who would become wards of the state, but served as an obstacle to freeing any slave.) Will put up some of his land as bond then loaned Freeman two acres to settle and farm and allowed him to pay for it later.

"Will is also remarkable in that he had an affair with a white woman who bore him a child but managed to avoid prosecution for what was, at the time, a crime punishable by jail.

"Will's son, William Black was not so lucky. Black lived and raised a son

*The island, today known as Bailey's island, was bought by a Massachusetts man who kicked the Black family off as squatters.*

with a white woman, though he was not legally allowed to marry her. In 1715, he was jailed, not for miscegenation, but under laws prohibiting extramarital affairs.

"By 1739, Black and his family had moved to the Harpswell area and were the first settlers on what was then known as Will's Island. The island, today known as Bailey's island, was bought by a Massachusetts man who kicked the Black family off

as squatters. The Blacks moved to nearby Orr's Island and today the water between the two islands is known as Will's Straight."

[http://www.portlandphoenix.com/archive/features/01/08/31/feat\\_slaves.html](http://www.portlandphoenix.com/archive/features/01/08/31/feat_slaves.html)

### Notes on Black Will, Will Black and Will Black, Jr.

From notes by Cheryl Ferrante at <http://www.blazenetme.net/~phloors/black.htm>

"NOTE: Black Will was Major Nicholas Shapleigh's slave. After Nicholas died (1692) he was eventually given to John Shapleigh of Kittery. John's wife found religion and freed Black Will.. John died in 1706. Black Will purchased 100 acres in Kittery in 1696 while still a slave.

"NOTE: In 1708, Will bound his land to protect the town on Charles Frost's freeing Tony Freeman, and allowed him to build on the land. His will, proved 1727/28, provides that his wife, Sarah, be supported by his two sons, "and bequeathed to wife Sarah, and in the will of two sons, William and Joshua, To Joshua he willed 3 piggs." According to this will he had a grandson named William.

"NOTE: Elizabeth was presented for fornication July 5, 1715 (MPC V:166), lived with and was lawfully published to but was not permitted to marry, mulatto WILLIAM BLACK, Nov 22, 1714 (LND, 699) born circa 1691. The Deposition of Valentine Scates and Samuel Allen both of full age Testifyeth & Saith That Black Will a Mollatto of Barwick & Elizabeth Turbit of said Barwick, has for some time past dwelt together both in one house & they the Deponents know of know [sic] other person or persons that dwells in the house with them and haveing frequent ocation to be at the house have seen them in bed together & further Saith not taken

upon oath the 16th July 1715 (MPC V:171).

"1727 - Wm. Black (son of Black Will) most likely was one of, if not the first, to arrive on Bailey Island

1758 - The son of "Black Will," William Black, assumed "squatters rights" to Newaggin. The ownership is acknowledged in the Act of Incorporation of the town of Harpswell at Harpswell Court in 1758. The island is referred to as "Will's Island".

"1760 - End of Indian Wars - Throughout the Indian Wars there is no record that Will or his family ever had to leave the island despite attacks on many other nearby outposts in the area.

"1762 - In February of 1762, William Black (son of "Black Will") bought most of the south end of Little Sebascodegan (Orr's) Island consisting of one hundred forty four acres from Joseph Orr for one hundred seventy two pounds. In September of 1762, he purchased additional acreage for thirty five pounds, nine shillings, four pence. This purchase appears to have been an investment rather than for a place to live and, therefore, indicates that Will may have had money to spare at that time and was not the destitute pauper history has made him out to be. It is also plausible that he had been paid for his claim to title of Bailey Island and that he was not "driven" away by Timothy and Hannah Bailey. In addition, Deacon Timothy appears as a witness to the February 1762 deed between Joseph Orr and Will Black, hardly the work of an enemy.

"1777 - In 1777, Wm Black purchased, for eighteen pounds, sixteen shillings, six pence, in partnership with Josiah Clark, "...equal parts of the two islands in or near Casco Bay called ...Capt. Parker's Island (now

Notes, continued on p. 6

## Smock Marriages

"JAMES BAILEY, born in 1680, was a son of John Bailey and Mary (Mighill) Bailey. He lived in Bradford, Mass. He married first, Hannah Wood, July 14, 1702. She was born January, 20, 1681. He married second, Mrs. Mary Bacon, November 22, 1733. This second marriage is cited as an instance in New England of what were known as smock marriages. Smock marriages were weddings where the bride appeared dressed in a white sheet or chemise furnished by the bridegroom. The reason of such a garb was the belief that if a man married a woman who was in debt he could be held liable for her indebtedness if he received any property with her. Eventually all immodesty was avoided by the bridegroom's furnishing to the bride all the clothing worn at the wedding retaining title to the same in himself. This was done in the presence of witnesses that he might prove the fact in case he was sued for any debts she might have contracted. The following is a copy of the record in the case of the second marriage of James Bailey: —

*"Bradford,  
December, ye 24, 1733.*

*This may certify whomsoever it may concern that James Bailey of Bradford who was married to the widow Mary Bacon November 22, last passed by me, ye subscriber, then declared that he took the said person without anything of estate and that Lydia, the wife of Eliazer Burbank & Mary the wife of Thomas Stickney & Margaret, the wife of Caleb*

*Burbank all of Bradford, were witnesses that the clothes she then had on were of his providing & bestowing upon her.*

*William Balch,  
Minister of ye Gospel."*

- *Bailey Genealogy. Part One. Account of Jambs Bailey Of Rowley And Some Of His Descendants. Compiled By Mollis R. Bailey. Mrs. Gertrude E. Bailey. Mrs. Abbie F. Ellsworth. 1899.*



*Harpswell Osprey on view at the Museum, 929 Harpswell Neck Road*

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen of the Town of Harpswell submit the following report for year ending Feb. 1, 1896 :

Valuation of Harpswell, year beginning April 1, 1895.

Resident real estate,	\$378,535 00
Personal property,	101,881 00
Non-resident real estate,	110,445 00
Total valuation,	—————\$590,861 00

Polls 489. Poll tax \$3.00.

Rate of tax, \$14.60 per thousand.

Collector eastern district, F. E. Stevens.

Collector western district, J. A. Curtis.

Percentage for collecting, .03 for first year, .025 until collected.

### APPROPRIATIONS.

Support of poor,	\$1,500 00
Support of schools,	1,800 00
Repair of school houses,	200 00
School books,	300 00
Repairs of roads and bridges,	1,500 00
New road on Orrs Island,	500 00
Contingent expenses,	1,600 00
To pay for school house District No. 6,	275 00
	————— \$7,675 00

*The Selectmens's Report for 1896. Note the tax rate is \$14.60 per thousand, whereas today it is \$6.24 per thousand. The town's valuation was \$488,980.00. In 2014, the State Valuation was \$1,797,900,000. Also, in 1896, support for the poor was almost as much as support for the schools and just as much as for the roads.*

Notes, continued from p. 4

called Ragged Island) and Sagwin Island" (?Seguin Island).

"1795 - In Jan. 1795, William Black bought nine and one half acres from John Blake for ten pounds, two shillings, eight pence (Book/Page 23/469). This land bordered on land owned by David Wheeler, Michael Sinnett and William Black..

"1805/1807 - Between 1805 and 1807, an Elizabeth Meyer, calling herself the daughter of William Black, sold 23 acres on Orr's Island to Stephen Sinnett for one hundred twenty-six dollars and fifty cents, and all interest in an island in Casco Bay called Parker's Island or Ragged Arse Island containing about 70 acres to James Sinnett for fifteen dollars and twenty-five cents."

## Island Chowder

Good eating is most certainly part of our history. The following is from *Island Cooking* published in 1976 by the Orr's Island Fire Department Auxiliary. A recipe from Ruth Sheffield of Bailey Island.

- 3 T. butter
- light cream
- ¼ lb. salt pork
- salt & pepper
- 2 sm. cloves, garlic, chopped
- ¼ tsp. thyme
- 2 med. onions, chopped
- 1 lb. lobster meat
- 2 lbs. fish, preferably, haddock
- 1 lb. shrimp
- 4 potatoes

Dice salt pork and fry. Add onions and garlic and cook until soft but not brown. Chop the raw fish or put through a grinder. Cook potatoes in salted water until just tender. Put potatoes and fish through a ricer or sieve. Add the salt pork and onion mixture to 1 quart of milk or light

cream. Season to taste with salt and pepper, add thyme. Add cooked lobster and shrimp and heat. Add butter. Add more cream or butter if desired. Good with a big "slug" of sweet sherry.



## Town Meeting Orders Barn Built

"On January 1-4, 1871, the town voted that the selectmen and overseers of the poor "be and are hereby instructed to build a new barn for James Alexander in place of the one destroyed by fire, and that they furnish him with hay and sufficient farming tools, using their discretion in the matter.

"The town also passed the following resolve: 'That in our candid judgment, the burning of the barn of James Alexander, and the maiming of his cattle in the night-time by some person or persons unknown, are an outrage upon a peaceable community which demands the most vigorous efforts to detect and convict the perpetrator, as no person is safe in his person or property in a community containing at large such a person.

"Therefore, Resolved. That the selectmen be authorized and instructed and are hereby required to make diligent search to apprehend and convict the offender, using their discretion as to the methods to be taken to produce that result."

- Wheeler, p 178

## How to Salt Cod for Shipment to Europe

"[Richard] Pott's fishing operation was probably similar to that carried on by other fishermen along the coast of Maine in those days. He may have had one or two helpers to fish with him, hand lining for cod within a few miles of shore and processing his catch by salting and drying it. Each day after they returned to shore, they would have cleaned the fish, setting aside the livers which would be laid out later on pans set in the sunshine to extract their oil which would be stored in casks. The cleaned cod were salted heavily and stacked into piles about two and a half feet square and two and a half feet tall. The cod were left this way for several days before the salt was washed off, and they were restacked to press out the excess water remaining upon them.

"The next step in the curing process was to lay the split fish, flesh side up, on so-called stages which were slatted platforms raised several feet above the ground. To ward off dew or fog each night or to protect the fish if rain threatened during the day, the cod were turned skin side upward to keep moisture away from the flesh as much as possible. The first few days of processing the fish were the most crucial, for if the flesh got wet then it would usually spoil or parboil in the sun and fall to pieces. After the fish dried four or five days, they were stacked in round piles, much like a hay cock with the skin side up and tails toward the outside. After being left this way for a week or two while the fish sweated and became moist, they were laid out and stacked again and dried once more. The cod were then cured. The last step was to weigh and pack them into so-called quintals or hundred weights for shipment."

- Wescott, pp. 12-13

# Home

[Delivered by Elijah Kellogg  
at Donation Party, October 19, 1897]

“THE sweetest word that ever trembled on human lips is the word ‘home.’ It embraces and concentrates in itself the germs of a thousand forces of happiness, power, and progress yet to be developed from it. So long as man wanders, and, like the savage, merely gathers what grows of itself from the soil, or captures the fish of the streams, the birds of the air, and the beasts that roam the forests, he makes no progress; he bestows no labor upon, and therefore takes no interest in, that abode which he is to abandon tomorrow. It is only when he has a permanent dwelling and produces something from the earth that progress, happiness, and the home relation begin. Home is the place where character is built, where

*The happiest homes are those the members of which are frequently called to sacrifice something or to deny themselves something for the others comforts and happiness.*

sacrifices to contribute to the happiness of others are made, and where love has taken up its abode. Love is the strongest passion of our natures and finds its happiness in sacrificing for its object; the parent for the child, the child for the parent, the sister for the brother. In this relation they are in the best possible position for moral and intellectual development; they stimulate and call out each other’s powers, energies, and affections.

“Infinite wisdom has declared, “It is not good for man to be alone.” There is not a more unsightly or unprofitable tree than a white pine growing alone. It is a mass of knots, knobs, short-jointed, crooked, and wind shaken, in short, a scrub. The lumbermen in contempt call it a bull

pine. But put a thousand of them together as near as they can grow. What a change! As you enter that majestic cathedral no sunbeam can pierce, and look up at those heights, trees straight as an arrow seventy feet to a limb, you almost feel like uncovering in reverence. Thus with the family relation. The happiest homes are those the members of which are frequently called to sacrifice something or to deny themselves something for the others comforts and happiness. It is this that sweetens home. It is those who bear the burdens of life together, relying upon and trusting in each other, who get the most out of life, bear its trials without being soured by them, and rear children who arise and call them blessed children that have real manhood who can look danger in the eye without quailing and grapple to severe tasks without wilting, and are nobody’s servants.

“It is evident that home is not



Elijah Kellogg, Harpswell, ca. 1880

mere locality, that it is not defined by metes and bounds. From Gibraltar to Archangel, from Calcutta to the frozen seas, there are homes. One principle, one fruit-bud produces them all. Home is not a thing that can be bought or sold in the market.

You may buy a homestead or a house, you may perhaps buy a wife, but you cannot buy a woman’s love. Costly furniture, rich dresses, retinues of servants, and luxurious dishes do not make homes. It is not the residence but the affection of the occupants that constitutes the home. Those who are united in the bonds of a true affection behold themselves reflected in each other, and each is to the other as another self. In the confidence of love there is repose.

“My friends and neighbors, this assembly is made up of those who have been reared and have reared others in homes where parental love and filial affection were the main-springs of action and the foundation of charitable and friendly acts. The desire to share with others the gifts a kindly Providence bestows on ourselves is bred in the atmosphere of home. All the sweet charities of life are but the overflow of these feelings and sympathies born and bred at the domestic hearthstone.

“I thank you, my friends and neighbors, for the gifts of affection bestowed this night, and may the blessing of God rest upon yourselves, your children, and your homes.”

- *Elijah Kellogg, The Man and His Work, Chapters from His Life and Selections From His Writings*, Edited By Wilmot Brookings Mitchell, Professor Of Rhetoric And Oratory, Bowdoin College, 1903

## Help Us Cut Our Costs

A big thank you to the **eighty four** people who have agreed to receive their newsletter by email.

We appeal to readers to send their email addresses to [harpshistory@gmail.com](mailto:harpshistory@gmail.com) so they can receive their HHS newsletter by email. It would help us save postage, printing expenses, and time for the volunteers who must individually fold, address, stamp, and mail each hard copy. You will receive the newsletter in color, too. Thank you!

## Christmas in New England

"In 1687 the Puritan minister Increase Mather railed against Christmas. He declared that those who celebrated it "are consumed in computations, in interludes, in playing at cards, in revellings, in excess of wine, in mad mirth." No one really disagreed. It just didn't bother some people the way it did Mather and the Puritan leadership.

"Charles Dickens and his Christmas ghosts helped with the PR makeover for the holiday.

"Charles Dickens and his Christmas ghosts helped with the PR makeover for the holiday.

"It would take more than 100 years for Christmas to develop the wholesome, shiny veneer it has today. While the southern colonies and New York, with its Dutch roots, embraced Christmas earlier, New England Protestants would hold out well beyond 1800, and their influence was felt nationally. In 1789, for instance, Con-

gress was in session on Christmas Day. Businesses throughout New England were always open on Christmas. And children attended school on Christmas well into the 1800s.

"By the early 1800s, however, with Episcopalians and Catholics already celebrating Christmas, the holdout Protestants felt pushed to join in, though most still believed Christmas was essentially a pagan holiday that the Catholic Church had coopted for its own purposes. The poem Twas The Night Before Christmas, published in 1822. and Charles Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol in 1843 gave the holiday a facelift, and the opposition in the church began to relent."

<http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/wont-go-get-new-england-colonial-christmas-traditions/>



## Acknowledgments

The Harpswell Historical Society acknowledges with much gratitude the gift of a kitchenette including a stove, refrigerator and a sink, as well as a heater for Centennial Hall.

We also thank Frances Caswell for her gift of a Forest Orr painting.

## Donations

Donations are still welcome for the 2015 fund raising year.

You may mail your donation to:  
Harpswell Historical Society  
929 Harpswell Neck Rd  
Harpswell, ME 04079

or  
give online at  
[www.harpswellhistorical.org](http://www.harpswellhistorical.org)  
with Paypal or a credit card.

## Board Members

Ann Standridge, Paul Dostie, Dave Hackett, Daniel McMahon, Burr Taylor

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